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Book Review. American City Government and Administration by Austin F. MacDonald

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elusively that laws of war will not stand the strain of a war between the great powers.

This volume is an excellent beginning of a series that will be awaited with great interest.

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This is a college text book, and the author frankly admits that that is its purpose; nor does he suggest that the general reader may find it interesting and instructive. His purpose has been to offer a readable text to meet the needs of the class room in courses dealing with municipal problems. Approximately an equal amount of space is devoted to Government, and to Administration, making a total of thirty chapters in all. The book is the product of the author’s teaching experience at the University of Pennsylvania, it is well written and perhaps less technical than some texts in the same field. Most of the material of the book is not new, but rather a well ordered rearrangement and restatement of existing data, to which has been added the recent developments in the field of Municipal Government and Administration.

An error appears at the bottom of p. 217 in the statement that Des Moines and Davenport, Iowa, adopted the Commission Plan of City Government in 1907. The statement is true for the city of Des Moines, but Davenport is still under its special charter granted in 1851 with amendments up to 1857 when special legislation for cities and towns was prohibited by the constitution of Iowa of 1857.

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In recent years the necessities of a complex business would have brought forth a legion of agencies concerned with the problem of dispensing specialized information to interested parties and to the public at large. The business man has his taxation “service,” his market “service,” his general business forecast and so on. Now come the authors of this book with a Legal Research Service which publishes the “U. S. Supreme Court Service,” a loose-leaf system giving current information on all the cases in the U. S. Supreme Court from the time they are filed until they are finally decided. This system is planned and worked out primarily for the members of the bar who are interested in federal legal matters. But this is not all. For the general public the Legal Research